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"Holoplast" materials are manufactured in the standard dimensions of 8 ft. by 4 ft., the structural panels having a thickness of 1 in. while laminated plastic linings are also available in thickness from 1/16 in. to 1/2 in. The standard finishes available are natural brown, cream-sprayed or incorporated wood veneer.

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**"HOLOPLAST"**  
THE NEW LAMINATED STRUCTURAL PLASTIC

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**MR. RIPLEY**  
(Believe It Or Not)  
is in Hong Kong to gather  
ITEMS OF UNUSUAL INTEREST  
OR STRANGE FACTS ABOUT  
HONG KONG

He will pay for all contributions accepted.

If you have any,  
Please post your contribution to the  
CHINA MAIL,  
Box 10, G.P.O.,  
so that it arrives not later than April 30.

**THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB**  
NOTICE TO MEMBERS  
FIFTH EXTRA RACE MEETING  
Saturday, 1st May, 1948.

The First Bell will be rung at 1.30 p.m. and the first race will be run at 2.00 p.m.  
Through numbers (10 Races-\$20.) may be obtained at the Office of the Treasurers, 1st floor, Exchange Building, also tickets for the Special Cash Sweep on the "Lantao Handicap" to be run at the Whitsun Meeting in May, 1948. The latter may be purchased at the Club's Branch Office, No. 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

**MEMBERS' BADGES AND ENCLOSURE.**  
Members and guests are reminded that they and their ladies MUST wear their badges PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED throughout the Meeting.

**NO ONE WITHOUT A BADGE WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE MEMBERS' ENCLOSURE.**

Badges admitting non-members to the Members' Enclosure and Club Rooms at \$10 including tax are obtainable through the Secretary on the written or personal introduction of a Member, such Member to be responsible for all debts etc.

The Treasurers' Comptrollers' Office will close at 11 a.m. and the Secretary's Office at 11.45 a.m. Both Officers at 1st floor, Exchange Building.

A limited number of tickets will be obtainable at the Club House, provided they are ordered in advance from the No. 1 Boy (Tel. 27810).

**NO CHILDREN WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE CLUB'S PREMISES DURING THE MEETING.**

**PUBLIC ENCLOSURE.**

The price of admission to the Public Enclosure is \$3 including tax for all persons including ladies, and is payable at the Gate.

Bookmakers, Tic-Tac men etc. will not be permitted to operate within the premises of The Hong Kong Jockey Club during the Race Meeting.

Refugees will be obtainable in the Restaurant in the Public Enclosure.

**SERVANTS' PASSES.**

Servants' passes will be issued to 15 Private Box holders ONLY who are refused to distribute them on discrimination and to endorse their names on the slips. Holders of such passes are not permitted in the Members' Enclosure except for passing through on their duties but must remain in their respective stands.

**BY ORDER**  
S. A. Sharp,  
Adm. Secretary.



## FOKI CLAIMS UNLAWFUL ARREST

Complainant in the charges of unlawful detention and assault against Sub-Inspector N. A. Clarke, Det. P.C. Lau Hoi-nam and P.C. Chan Po-wah was further cross-examined by defence counsel, Mr. J. M. d'Almada Remedios, at the resumed hearing before Mr. F. X. d'Almada at Central Magistracy yesterday.

Kwan Shing, a rice stall foki, was in the box the whole day. Mr. F. W. Shafman, O.B.E., Senior Police Superintendent and Officer-in-charge of the Anti-Corruption Branch, prosecuted, while Mr. A. S. C. Comber, Mr. Remedios and Mr. Alfred Bon represented defendants.

Kwan, under cross-examination, said he knew Lee Lap, the Special Branch man, through the mistress of the rice stall. He had never met Lee before.

Recollecting the night of Feb. 4, witness said his mistress did not comply with the request for rice by the occupants of Patrol Car No. 473. Because they had sold out and because the police had previously ordered rice and did not pay.

"I put it to you that you supplied rice for your other customers which you refused to supply to the police," Mr. Remedios suggested.

"No" witness replied. The other customers arrived at the stall before the car came up. The rice given to the customers was bought from an adjacent stall.

Hearing was adjourned to May 3 at 2.30 p.m.

## Readers' Letters

### Explanation Wanted

Sir.—I notice from a report appearing in your paper of Tuesday, that certain alleged sellers of sweep tickets were charged before Mr. F. X. d'Almada with the illegal selling of sweep tickets and fined.

In view of the action which has been taken by the Police against hawkers of sweep tickets, it would be interesting to have an explanation as to why the Police have so far refrained from taking any action whatsoever against money changers and shopkeepers who are also illegally selling sweep tickets at \$2.20 each. I carried out a tour of this Colony from east to west yesterday and in the course of my peregrinations, I observed that a large number of shopkeepers and practically every money changer in the Colony was displaying sweep tickets for sale at \$2.20 each. In some cases, large sized banners and placards were spread across the street to advertise the fact that sweep tickets were for sale.

Are the Police only concerned with arresting poor and needy individuals who are trying to make an honest living? Are the upper crust of Chinese merchants and shanthers, who are already amassing fortunes through profiteering and speculation, immune from interference by the Police? Surely there is not one law for the poor and another for the rich.

While on the subject of Police raids, I think it is high time that the Commissioner of Police gave instructions to his men, particularly plainclothes Chinese detectives armed with revolvers, that no policeman in a British Colony has the right to beat up small children or to drag young girls through the streets by the hair. These disgraceful scenes which take place almost every day when hawkers' raids are being carried out should be stopped forthwith: they were in vogue during the Occupation days, but many of our Chinese detectives and policemen, who apparently received their tuition from Japanese Gendarmes, have obviously overlooked the fact that Hong Kong is today under British rule.

There may be some justification for the beating up of criminals in order to obtain confessions for a conviction; there is, however, no justification for the beating up and mauling of young children, whose only crime, if such it can be described, is that they are trying to make an honest living.

As you so aptly put it in your leaderette of Sunday last, "the deprive people of a livelihood is merely to force them into criminal ranks." Unfortunately, this view does not seem to be shared by the Police.

Incidentally, I note from an announcement also in Tidesay that an explanation has been given to the effect that Police raids on flower sellers in Kowloon were carried out in conformity with Government's policy to rid the streets of unlicensed hawkers. It would have been more appropriate for the authorities to have stated that the

## Had Trouble With Wife, Concubine

Because her husband's concubine returned from the country without her knowledge, Hung Siu Yung allegedly went to her husband's stall in Wah-chai and stabbed him with a small pen knife in the chest.

Hung was charged before Mr. Thomas Tam at Central Street last Tuesday for receiving a pouch. Defendant, a unknown Chinese, handed it to him.

It is announced that Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to consent that the title of the Colonial Nursing Service shall be given the title of Queen Elizabeth's Colonial Nursing Service.

Appearing for the fourth time in the dock at Central Magistracy yesterday was a 33-year-old carpenter charged this time with receiving stolen property.

Pleading guilty, Fong Hong of No. 6, Square Street, second floor was sentenced to nine months hard labour and recommended for banishment by Mr. F. X. d'Almada.

Fong was arrested in Pedder Street last Tuesday for receiving a pouch. Defendant, a unknown Chinese, handed it to him.

Opening the case, Insp. R. MacKenzie, prosecuting, said that defendant had been married to complainant for 17 years and in 1941 sent her to Shing Sze Kuk.

The wife went to his stall and stabbed him in the chest with a small pen knife.

Corroborative evidence was given by the complainant and medical evidence was given by Dr. Gould as to the appearance of the wound. Dr. Gould said that the wound was very near

the heart. The wife was committed to the

King's Bench for trial.

Enlighten Your Night With

## BISHOP HALL ASKS SUPPORT FOR WORKERS' SCHOOLS

Their first objective was the building of four primary schools, said Bishop Hall, presiding at a discussion meeting on schools for workers' children at the Y.W.C.A. last evening, at which appeals were made for public support of the scheme.

Bishop Hall said that since the war Hong Kong had given schooling to about 110,000 children. There were still probably nearly as many children who ought to be in school but who had no opportunity to study.

With the help of the Education Department, the part time use of one Government School and the use of several rented flats and workers' guild rooms, they had managed to get 1,300 children into school.

They had to build within the next 12 months and planned for schools each with 500 capacity. Doubling this by morning and evening schools they would get 1,000 children taught in each school.

### From Taxation

They should provide recreation and other amenities of school life and he suggested that we should have some streets closed to traffic, so that they could be playgrounds for children.

Each school would cost about \$300,000, of which half would come from taxation.

The Bishop revealed that Mr. J. H. Ruttonjee had offered \$50,000 towards the cost of the arts school, on condition that they could find other donors to subscribe the balance of \$100,000. A Chinese had given \$25,000.

Mr. Lawrence Kadoorie had been encouraging and said he would try to get a school started at Hung Hom in the Kowloon dock area.

Mr. M. K. Lo had agreed to be Chairman of a Committee to be called the New Primary Schools Committee. Mr. Ruttonjee would be Treasurer and the Rev. George She, Secretary.

Mr. J. H. Ruttonjee said that no small share of the responsibility for the education of workers' children fell on the Colony's business men—Chinese and non-Chinese. He had responded to the Bishop's appeal in the hope that all our captains of industry, of every race, would rally to the scheme.

It was on the skill and strength of the workers that the prosperity of Hong Kong was based. Their interests and those of their children were our responsibility.

"Until the humblest of our people can at least read a newspaper they cannot understand the rights and obligations of the citizen under a democratic government," Mr. Ruttonjee said.

No nation whose people were uneducated could hope to hold its place. Apart from purely humanitarian considerations it was the duty of our wealthy Chinese friends to assist towards the education of their fortunate fellowmen.

Ticals were unchanged at \$25.60 a 100, and NEI Guilders were at \$45.10 a 100.

U.S. dollars continued quiet at \$5.63 for notes.

Sterling was up to \$12.38 in the morning, but was easier at \$13.35 in the afternoon.

Australian pounds were unchanged at \$12.55.

Fourth Time IN DOCK

Appearing for the fourth time in the dock at Central Magistracy yesterday was a 33-year-old carpenter charged this time with receiving stolen property.

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Fong was arrested in Pedder Street last Tuesday for receiving a pouch. Defendant, a unknown Chinese, handed it to him.

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# MARGARINE BLACKMARKET INCREASING

"There has been no butter coming in and margarine is in great demand as a substitute. The result is increased black-market activities where margarine is concerned."

The above was revealed by Mr. J. H. G. Pitman when a representative of the Cheung Pat Ho store of 230 Kung Street admitted having sold a 1-lb. tin of margarine for \$6, or 100 per cent, above the controlled price. A fine of \$525, with a further \$125 for selling a tin of oats at 10 cents above the controlled price, was imposed by Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon yesterday.

Two retailers of flour, the Hing Fat Loong of 21 Reclamation Street and the Wo Heung of 252 Shanghai Street, were fined \$42.50 each for selling a catty each of flour at about 100 per cent in excess of the fixed price of 50 cents per catty.

The Sun Kai Yuen of 16 Jordan Road was warned by the Magistrate that another appearance in Court would result in a very severe penalty being imposed on the representative when she admitted to selling a packet of cornstarch for \$120 instead of \$1.45. Mr. Pitman pointed out that that was the shop's third offence.

For selling a cake of Lever's health soap at 70 cents instead of 65 cents, the Majestic Candy Store of 330 Nathan Road, was fined \$525. It was the shop's second offence, Mr. Pitman said.

Other profiteers dealt with yesterday were:

## Impersonated Revenue Officer

A 32-year-old shop boy, who claimed to be a stranger in Hong Kong, appeared before Mr. Hin-shing Lo at Central Magistracy yesterday charged on two counts of impersonating a revenue officer, of demanding money, with menace and/or of simple larceny.

Yip Hon-leung, pleading not guilty, was convicted and sentenced to three months' hard labour on each count, to run concurrently. Yip was also recommended to be expelled.

The charges brought by Det. Sub-Inst. V.M. Morrison of the Special Branch were, impersonating a revenue officer on March 7 whilst aboard a Mongkok Ferry launch and on April 1 in the Fu Kwai Lau Tea House, Shantung Street, stealing \$7.00 from Chan Kwong in Shaukiwan on March 20, and demanding \$40 from Chan Kwong in Shaukiwan on March 20 and \$60 from Chan Chin in the Fu Kwai Tea House on April 1.

## LOITERERS FINED

Two groups of women loiterers, in the Wanchai area appeared before Mr. Hin-shing Lo at the Central Magistracy yesterday.

Those without a previous conviction were bound over and three with convictions for similar offences were fined for breach of their bond and another \$30 for the present offence.

They were all arrested in Hennessy and Lockhart Roads at about 10 p.m. on Tuesday night by Inspector J. Hayward and a party of police from Wanchai Police Station.

Insp. H. Brownrigg prosecuted.

## Reminders

**Today**  
Royal Air Forces Association fortnightly luncheon, Jacobean Room, H. K. Hotel, 12.45 p.m.  
Y's Men's Luncheon, talk on "The Story of a Cigarette" by J. A. Sterckler, Roof Garden, H.K. Hotel, 12.45 p.m.  
Stage Club presents "Youngsters that go Bump in the Night", Missions to Seamen Theatre, 8.30 p.m.

Annual meetings of Chemor United Rubber Co., Ltd., Semambu Rubber Estates, Ltd., Cheng Rubber Estates, Ltd., at Rooms 601-606, Medina House, 12 noon, 12.15 p.m., 12.30 p.m.

Guest Night, Dinner, European YMCA, 7.30 p.m.  
Diocesan Old Girls' Association "At Home", at school, 9 p.m.  
Nethesole Hospital, Charity Ball, The Grips, H.K. Hotel, 8 p.m.

## Coming Events

**TOMORROW**  
Central British School, presentation of prizes by the Governor, 11 a.m.

Maryknoll School, annual prize-giving and annual play, 5 p.m.

Shanghai Pahang Rubber Estates, Ltd., Sungai Duri Rubber Estate, Ltd., annual meetings, room 601-606, Medina House, 11.30 a.m. and 12 noon.

Kowloon Rotary Club Luncheon, Peninsula Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

## RIP KIRBY



## BREACH OF PROMISE CASE VERDICT

London, Apr. 27.

**Mrs. Imelda Catharine Price, attractive widow of an RAF officer, today lost her breach of promise suit against an American Vice-Consul.**

The jury of ten men and two women found for the defendant, Ernest Griffin, 38, of Salina, Kansas, American Vice-Consul in London. Mrs. Price was ordered to pay costs.

Mr. Griffin testified that he broke his engagement with the 40-year-old Birmingham widow after she had twice tried to entice him to join her in bed. He said he thought her "immmodest and forward."

He said they agreed to become engaged in the summer of 1947 on the understanding that they would marry if they did not appear suited to each other. She called him "old-fashioned" for refusing to spend the night with her after their engagement, Mr. Griffin said.

Mrs. Price denied that there had been any understanding of a trial engagement. She also denied inviting him to bed, but admitted she once took off her dress and lay on his bed while he wrote letters.

Cross-examining Mr. Griffin, counsel for Mrs. Price asked: "Were you fighting for your virtue?"

Mr. Griffin: "Not necessarily." Counsel: "You were resisting this woman's blandishments?"

## Obscene Pictures

With two previous convictions in 1947 (one for larceny and the other for exposing indecent pictures for sale), Tom Chai (41) was fined \$250 (or three months' hard labour) on the charge of obstruction and an additional three months' hard labour for exposing indecent pictures for sale, by Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon yesterday.

Sub-Inspector J. S. Howarth informed the Court that when defendant was arrested at 11 p.m. on April 23 at Argyle Street near Nathan Road, 12 obscene pictures and six "very indecent" picture books were found on him.

The books, according to accused, were printed in Canton and purchased from a travelling trader.



## BY ALEX RAYMOND

IT'S RIP, DOLLY! HE SAYS TO BE READY. IN TEN MINUTES... OH, PAGAN! DO YOU THINK HE'S FOUND MY BABY?

DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP, CONTROL YOURSELF, MISS MALONE! PRISCILLA BLEAK IS, LITTLE SHAWN MAY BE WITH HER.

MR. KIRBY, I COULD KISS YOU!



SHOWING TO-DAY **QUEENS** At 2:30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.

The Thrilling Story of the Fighting French!

**The CROSS OF LORRAINE**

Screen Play by Michael Kamen and Eric Lander; Alexander Ensky; Robert D. Andrews

Starring JEAN PIERRE AUMONT - GENE KELLY

SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE

RICHARD WHORE - JOSEPH CALLEA

PETER LORE - HUMIE CARIN

A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

Directed by Tay Garnett

Produced by Louis J. Gasnier

Added: "THE INVISIBLE MOUSE" - Color Cartoon

**QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA**

OPENS TO-MORROW

MGM Technicolor Musical

**GOOD NEVY**

Starring ALYSSON LAWFOORD

PATRICIA MARSHALL

JOAN McCRAKEN

RAY McCRANIE - MIC TOWNE

WALTERS - ROBERT FREED

A METRO-GOLDBECK PICTURE

**ORIENTAL**

SHOWING TO-DAY 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.

BRAND NEW PRINT

**MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY**

CHARLES LAUGHTON

CLARK GABLE

FRANCHOT TONE

Music by RICHARD HARRIS

NEXT CHANGE "THIS MAN'S NAVY"

**GENERAL**

THEATRE

FIVE SHOWS DAILY

AT 12.30, 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.

FINAL EPISODE

**WEIRD THRILLS... BATTING MECHANICAL MEN... UNDER THE OCEAN'S FLOOR**

**Undersea Kingdom**

RAY CRASH CORRIGAN

A REPUBLIC SERIAL

REPUBLIC SERIAL

**VICTORY THEATRE**

Showing To-Day At 12.30, 2.30, 7.30, 9.30 p.m.

A Wellknown Fairy Tale

Full of Educational Meaning

**CINDERELLA**

U.S.A. Production with Chinese Subtitle

# DEBATE ON DEATH PENALTY

## Jowitt Not In Favour Of Suspension

### "There Are Fates Worse Than Death"

London, Apr. 27. Britain's highest legal authority, the Lord Chancellor (Lord Jowitt), said today that he was not in favour of suspending the death penalty. He was opening a debate in the House of Lords on a bill which includes a clause, inserted by the vote of the House of Commons against the wish of the Government, suspending the death penalty for murder for five years.

Interest in this debate, which will last two days, is mainly whether the House of Lords supports or opposes the new clause.

If they reject it, the Government is expected to support the Commons' decision. The House of Lords would then have to decide their next step.

Lord Jowitt said: "Hanging is, of course, a grim and horrible business. So is murder.

#### Worse Than Death

"I believe that hanging cuts down murders. Because of that, I am opposed to abolishing capital punishment."

He referred to countries where capital punishment had been abolished and to countries where murderers served years in solitary confinement.

"There are fates worse than death," he said. He thought that no one in Britain would tolerate solitary confinement for years.

The recent vote in the House of Commons showed that the death penalty was repugnant to a large section of public opinion. Lord Jowitt agreed with the decision to allow a free vote in the House of Commons. Therefore the experiment would be tried.

"If, contrary to my fears, it turns out to be a success, no one will be more ready to admit his error than I. But I cannot feel at present, when we have this distressing wave of crime, with

more gangsters going about with arms than before, it is a wise moment to try the experiment.

#### 104 Released

"It having been decided that this is the right moment, let us now go forward," Lord Jowitt declared. "I myself accept this decision."

The Lord Chancellor disclosed that 104 people convicted of murder, whose death sentences had been commuted to penal servitude for life, had been released from prison in the last 10 years.

Lord Jowitt commented that the Home Secretary—who has the power of reprieve—might, under the new system, have to keep murderers in prison longer than now.

Otherwise, a murderer whose death sentence has been commuted to imprisonment for life has been released after 10, 15 or 20 years if of good behaviour.—Reuter.

#### H.M.S. MAURITIUS RECALLED

London, Apr. 27. The Admiralty announced today that the cruiser Mauritius, attached to the Mediterranean Fleet for two years, has been recalled and is expected to arrive at Portsmouth on April 30.

The sloop Pencock has been ordered to visit Tobruk on April 28 to 30 for the unveiling of an Australian war memorial.—Associated Press.

### BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By Shepard Barclay.

"The Authority on Authority"

ATONE FOR YOUR SINS

If your own smart Alecky bidding had apparently egged the opponents into a better contract than they probably would have reached if you had acted more sanely, you are in grave danger of losing your partner's confidence. The case is likely to be so desperate that you must come across with something spectacular if you are to restore the entente cordiale with that important person across the table from you. In brief, to atone for your sins, you must perform a nearmiracle.

S. J 10 9 5 4  
H. A 8 5 3  
D. K Q 0  
C. 9

S. A 6 S. 2  
H. Q. 7 4 H. J 10 9  
D. C. A Q J 7 6  
10 8 4 3 2  
S. K Q 8 7 3

H. K 4  
D. A J 3 2  
C. 7 5

(Dealer: South. North-South vulnerable.)

West North East  
1 S 2 NT 3 S 4 H  
4 S 4 NT 5 S Pass  
Pass Dbl Rdbl

West—what might be called a "ground and lofty tumbler" among bidders—made his two bids of No Trumps as barriers against his opponents, hoping they would double and make him run out in Clubs, then double the Clubs. When they didn't fall for it, he decided their bidding as high as they did was partly because his own haywire bidding made them think his hand was weaker defensively than it actually was. That's why he dou-

bled them—that coupled with his partner's single bid which indicated some probable defensive ability.

When North redoubled, West decided that stern measures were necessary in the play, especially since he was subjected to severe glares from across the table. So he started by leading the singleton Q of his partner's heart suit. When that was won in the dummy, the spade J was sent to his A.

Now West put on his thinking cap. If he could only get East in the lead, a heart ruff would beat the contract. The only high card out of sight which could make South's bidding completely sound was the diamond A, so he doubtless held it. East's only chance therefore to have a high card was the club K. Hoping for that, West led the club 2. When the K won and the heart J was ruffed, the winning partnership was restored.

Tomorrow's Problem

S. K Q 7 5 3  
H. Q 6 5  
D. 10 7 3  
C. 6 2

S. 10 8 4 S. 9 6  
2 H. A J 8 3 H. 9 4 2  
4 S. 9 6 5 2 D. Q. J 4  
C. K 4 3

S. A J  
H. K 10 7  
D. A K 8  
C. A Q 9 7 5

(Dealer: South. North-South vulnerable.)

How should South play at 3—No Trumps after the heart 3 lead?

(Source: *Bridge* by E. C. H. Smith, 1947)

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How should South play at 3—No Trumps after the heart 3 lead?

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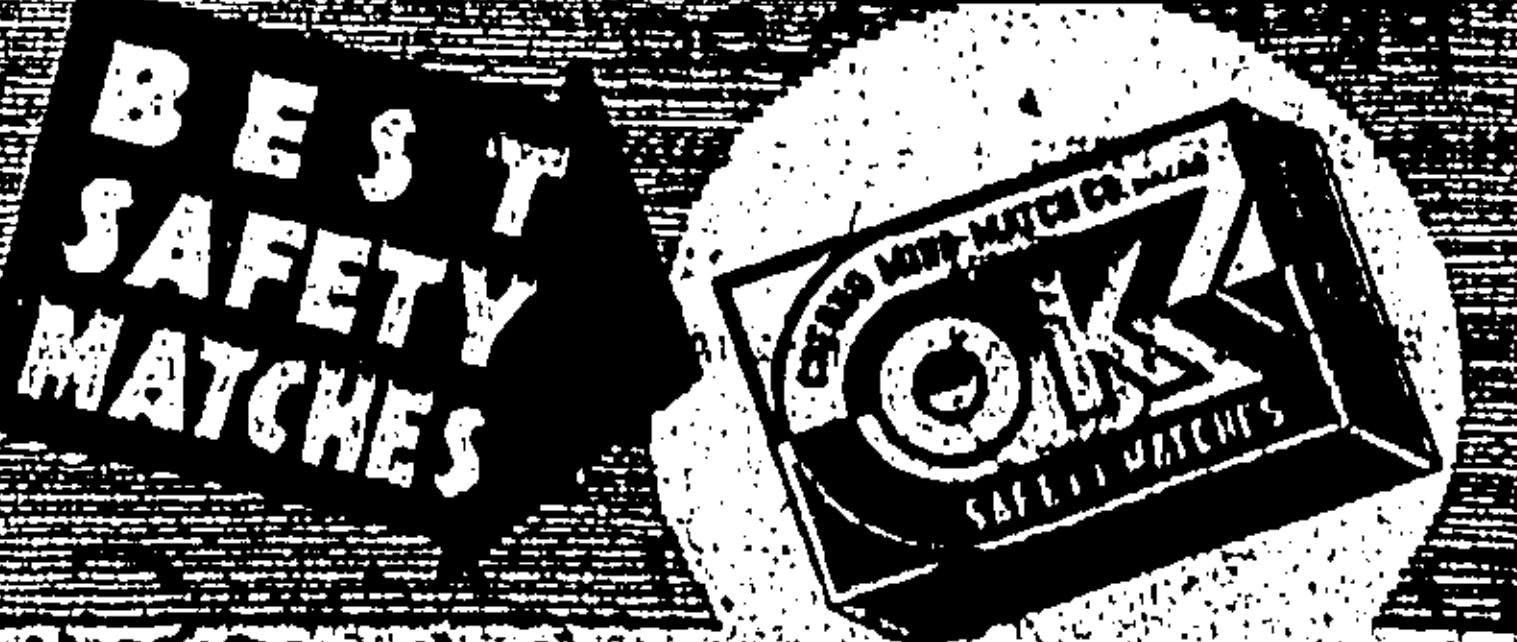
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# A SIGNIFICANT BROADCAST

## Communist Minister On Finnish Unrest

### Helsinki Police On Alert

Helsinki, Apr. 27.  
M. Yrjo Leino, Communist Minister of the Interior, said in a broadcast tonight: "A certain unrest characterizes Finland's political atmosphere." He added: "This tension and the abnormal conditions arising from it indicate something more involved than the ordinary prelude to a general election (to be held next July)."

"It seems our whole policy is involved. Shall we continue to develop our present peaceful democratic policy, or shall we revert to the old policy which would lead to even graver consequences than did our present policy?"

"The increasing tension in the international situation has given new hope to the anti-democratic powers in our country. They now talk about a coup, d'état planned by the Left, despite the fact that the Left party, which is now an important factor in the Government machinery, watches over our present policy more sincerely than any other political group."

#### Red Plot?

Helsinki police were alerted last night against attempts by "extremist elements" to seize

#### Bevin Sees The "Light"

London, Apr. 27.  
The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, forecast today that Britain could put its economy on a sound basis and restore its independence within three years if it got the greatest possible value out of Marshall aid.

"I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. The question is how soon we can get through the tunnel," he said.

Mr. Bevin was making a special urgent appeal to every employer, trade union official and dock worker in Britain's ports to speed the Marshall aid shipments.

"It is a very great action on the part of America," he said. "It is all very well to talk about Americans being wealthy, but this help comes out of the taxes of the ordinary people many of whom are no better off than we are when they give part of their taxes."—Reuter.

#### Prosperity: Ahead Unless--

Washington, Apr. 27.  
The United States may enjoy several years of business prosperity unless the war scare grows worse, Dr. Erwin G. Nourse, Presidential Economic Adviser, said today.

Many believe foreign aid and preparedness prevented a 1948 business sag, he noted.

But for the long haul, the economic prospect may be termed unfavourable, he said. And if the U.S. has to have a substantially larger military force indefinitely, purchasing power of consumers may have to be figured downward, he added.

The return to "bona fide" peacetime economy has been cut off by foreign aid and the military programme, Nourse observed.

Nourse spoke before the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. He is chairman of the President's Economic Council which keeps close watch on national economic ups and downs and helps him advise Congress.

Secretary of State George Marshall told the business leaders that Britain held her dominance in world affairs over

the centuries because of continuity in foreign policy. U. S. leadership, he said, must rest on a firm, consistent and bipartisan foreign policy. Marshall also endorsed the reciprocal trade treaty programme.

Nourse said recent events have made hopes a little brighter for checking inflation. But, he said, "reducing" inflation may come with continued spending for foreign aid and defence.

He said that purchasing power may suffer even though production and employment stay high. He referred to money as measured by the goods it actually buys.—Associated Press.

Sir Stafford Cripps and the British delegation to tomorrow's talks arrived by air from London this afternoon.

Shortly after his arrival, Cripps held preliminary discussions with Sir George Rendel, British Ambassador to Belgium.—United Press.

Belgian financial circles expected that the talks will centre round the possibility of creating a five-power token currency, possibly backed by the American dollar; such a currency would likely be used only for purposes of trading among the five powers.

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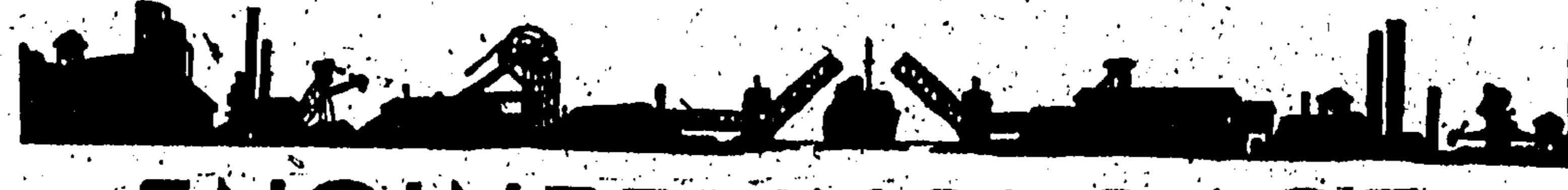
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## ENGINEERING PAGE

### SHELL CONCRETE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

#### BUILDING HOUSES WITH A SPRAY GUN



The principal features of shell concrete construction were discussed by Mr. H. G. Cousins, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., in a paper read before a meeting of the Reinforced Concrete Association held at the Institution of Civil Engineers. Following is a summary of the speaker's remarks:

The essential feature of shell concrete construction is the use of suitably stiffened thin concrete surfaces to span large areas. The use of members subject to bending is uneconomical, since only the extreme fibres of the section can be stressed to the allowable limits. In shell construction the roof covering itself is used to transmit loads to the supports. It does this by means of direct forces lying wholly within the surface of the roof. For this reason the dead-weight does not increase appreciably as spans become larger, the thickness of the shell being determined by considerations of buckling. This is of particular importance in large span structures where the dead-weight is often a considerable portion of the total weight to be carried.

**Loading Tests.**  
Many loading tests have been carried out on shell roofing, both on models and on full size structures. The deflection measured show clearly that these roofs act in accordance with theoretical calculations.

Such tests have been made both with uniform load over the whole barrel or with a load on one side only of the arch. One such test carried out on a model 40 ft. long, 15 ft. wide, with a shell thickness of 1/16 in., was to apply 62 lb. per sq. ft. on one side only of the barrel without any cracking being observed. Under such a loading the usual type of arch construction would have failed.

To allow for temperature movements in shell roofs, joints must be provided in all straight members at suitable intervals, depending upon the flexibility of the supporting columns. Such straight members are the shell in the direction of the generating lines, the edge beams and also the end frames, if these are straight. These considerations limit the length of a barrel between end frames to about 200 ft. A series of parallel barrels can thus provide a clear floor of up to 200 ft. wide and of indefinite length.

If clear spans greater than 200 ft. are required, it is necessary to use the short barrel type supported on end frames of arch form having sufficient flexibility. Again, an indefinite length can be covered without columns obstructing the clear width thus obtained.

Whilst the arch form sheds rainwater quickly from the surface and the shape and flexibility of the structure minimise cracking, it is not possible to guarantee the roof to be entirely free from haircracks, which might allow rain to penetrate. Water-proof coverings are therefore necessary for roofs which must be impermeable. Either roofing felt or asphalt may be used.

The problem of heat insulation of shell structure is similar to that of a normal reinforced concrete roof. The smaller thickness of slab used makes little difference to the heat transmission. Without adding any insulating material, the heat transmission would be about 0.8 BTU/sq. ft. per hour/deg. F. Where additional resistance is required any of the standard methods can be adopted. One of the simplest is the use of building board as permanent shuttering on the underside. Half-inch soft board will reduce the transmissions by half.

Roof lighting can be incorporated either in the form of patent glazing or concrete and glass lights. These can be of almost any size and shape. While they can be placed in any position, it is usually most convenient and efficient to put them at the crown of the barrel.

Patent glazing allows more light to enter than glass lenses, but the latter are valuable in that they diffuse the light more evenly. The good quality of the lighting is a particular feature of shell buildings, which are free from tie members and other obstructions. The reduction in lighting area necessary is useful in reducing heat losses. An area of lighting equal to 1/4th of the floor area is sufficient for most purposes.

#### Ventilation

Louvres can be incorporated in the design of the roof limits to provide natural ventilation. This can also be achieved by louvred panels in the end frames or standard type extracts through the roof.

Normal concrete and concreting methods can be adopted for shell work. Three-quarters of an inch aggregate is suitable, although the maximum size is often reduced to 3/4 in. for the roof slabs. Grading and type of aggregate should be selected to ensure good workability, as many of the sections are small. High-grade cement is usually called for. For small spans a 1:2:4 mix is sufficient, but for large spans richer mixes are used.

And in the majority of concrete work, normal mild steel round reinforcement is usually the simplest to use. The fixing is easy and relatively cheap, although at first glance the detailing appears

An entirely new building material which can be sprayed up to eight inches thick on to wire mesh, and sets within fifty minutes, has been developed by the British firm of C. and T. Painters Ltd. of London. The material, "Pyroc", is made from lime, cement and Vermiculite. It is non-cracking and will stick to wood or metal; it sets hard, but it will take nails or screws and can be cut with an ordinary saw. For use on the outside of buildings it can be made waterproof, but in its normal state it is absorbent so that no condensation occurs in the most "muggy" weather. Any necessary repair can be made with the spray gun, and a wall of only three hours is necessary before the sprayed-on material can be painted. The combination of Pyroc with wire mesh may well mean new shapes for our homes with their main shells completed at a fraction of their present day cost. The most important feature of the material, apart from its adaptability to all forms of building, is that it is fireproof. So low is Pyroc in heat-conduction that a blow-lamp may be played against one side of a section one inch thick, and a man can hold his hand against the other side without discomfort. A thickness of three inches of the material round a steel girder will prevent the girder sagging and bending in a burning building.

Top picture shows The Pyroc treated side of a structure stands undamaged, although the petrol-soaked furniture in it has gutted away. The untreated side has collapsed, completely gutted. Below is shown the technique of building a Pyroc wall.

complicated. Much of the reinforcement is in straight lengths, and in the shell slab the small diameter bars used can be curved on the roof as they are fixed. Several layers of reinforcement are used in the slab, some to take the bending stresses in the shell, while normally trajectory bars are used following the lines of the principal tensile stresses. Where the latter are small, it is possible to reinforce with a mesh of steel, but this is not appreciably cheaper, and is less useful in preventing cracks.

#### Cleat Lines

Although shell construction can be used with any structural material, it is the only method by which large areas can be covered economically with concrete. A concrete shell structure has all the attributes of concrete construction such as permanence, strength against accidental damage, resistance to fire and lack of upkeep costs. The cleat lines which may be obtained have both psychological and hygienic advantages. No greater constructional height is needed than with other forms of construction. Good lighting and insulation can readily be obtained. Point loads applied to the structure are not a danger as with many other types of roof. Economy of material is obtained, especially steel as compared with the weight necessary for a steel structure. No special materials or methods of construction, other than those normally used in reinforced concrete work, are necessary. Whilst the designs should be entrusted to an engineer specialising in the design of such structures, the work on the side can be carried out by any reputable contractor used to dealing with reinforced concrete work.

As the potentialities of shell construction are becoming more widely known, increasing interest is being shown in its development for many types of building. Present conditions restrict many projects, but the low steel weight required for shell construction compared with that for steel de-

signs has enabled a number of buildings to proceed. The factor which ensures the extended use of shell in the future is the pleasing, often impressive, appearance of the completed structure, which renders it attractive both to the designer and building owner.

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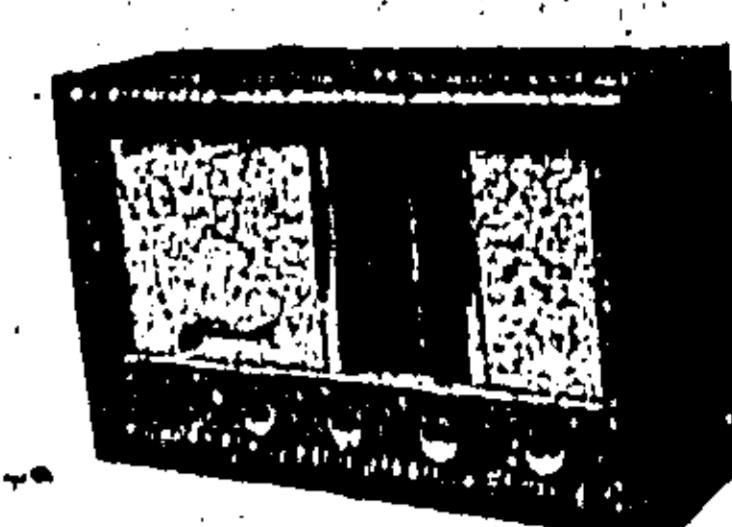
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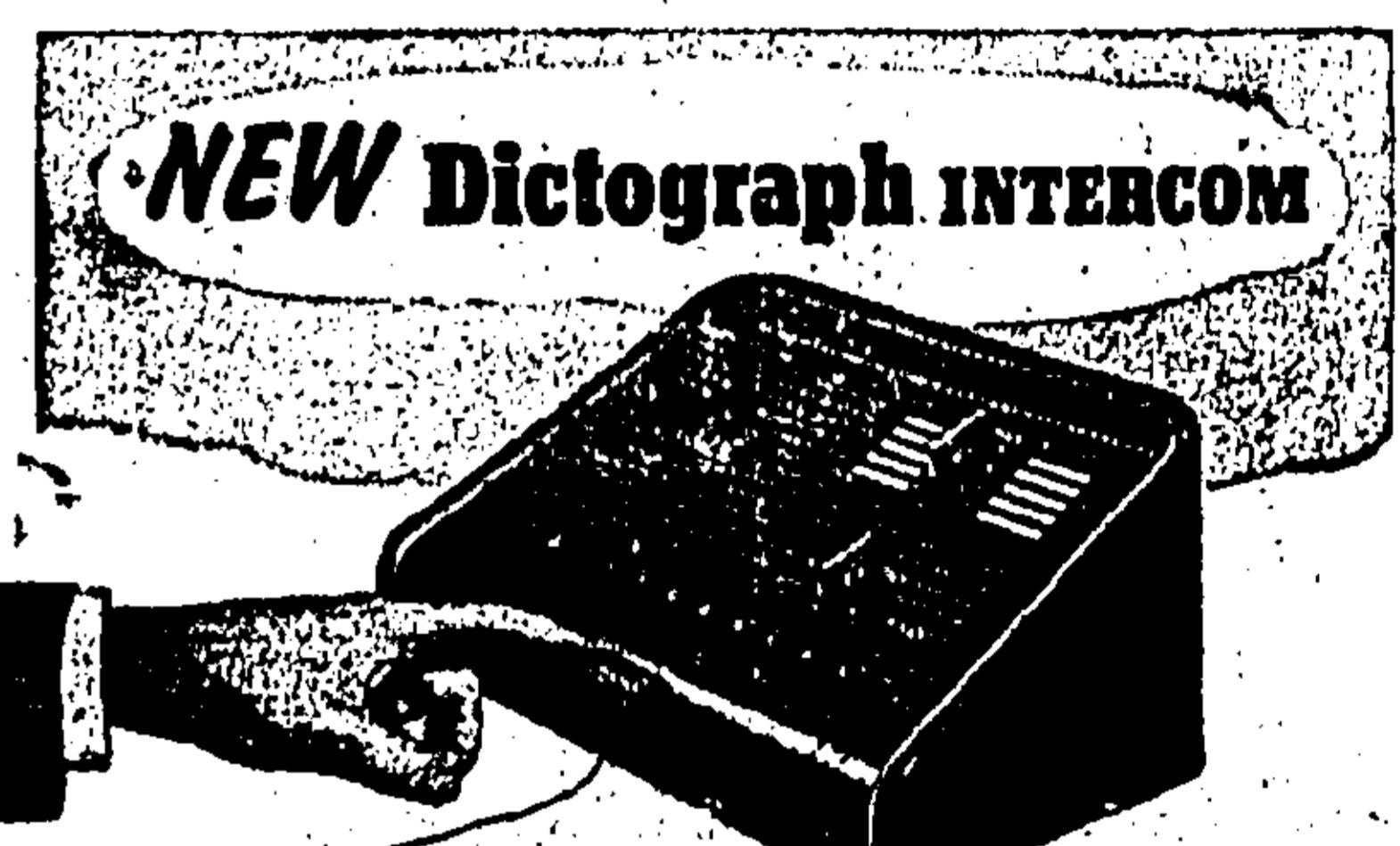
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S.S. "BENMACDHUI"	U.K.	17th May
S.S. "BENLOMOND"	U.K.	Mid June

## SAILINGS

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S.S. "BENLOMOND"	Rotterdam, Hamburg	Late June

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M.V. HALLAND	"	end May
M.V. BENGAL	"	Early June
M.V. BENARES	"	Early July
M.V. NAGARA	"	End July

## HOMEWARDS TO EUROPE

M.V. BALI	23rd May
M.V. BRYNJE	Early June
M.V. BENARES	Early July
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FROM PACIFIC COAST

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ARAB LEGION DIGGING IN  
Invasion Hangs Fire: Expected "Soon"  
Conflicting News From PalestinePrincess  
Sentenced

Brussels, Apr. 27.

Princess Alexandra Obolensky, 32-year-old, Russian princess, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment by a military court today for trading with the German Army during the war.

She was described in evidence as being the head of a gang of seven collaborators who sold £1,500,000 worth of woolen goods and liquors to the Germans. Her share of the profits was stated to have been £51,000.—Reuters.

The report also discounted the possibility that a concerted move among the Jews in Palestine would be made shortly by other states of the Arab League.

## Egyptian Move

Egypt, the strongest of the Arab States, was reported to have sent Army detachments to the Palestine frontier "for training."

The Egyptian Government newspaper, Al Assas, said the detachments had gone to the frontier "pending the decisions of the Arab Governments." The Egyptian paper, Al Balagh, said "Egyptian troops will enter Palestine territory on Friday," but this was discounted by well-informed quarters in Cairo.

Responsible Government and Arab League quarters also discounted the statement from an official Arab source in Damascus last night that King Abdullah's Legion had actually "declared war on Zionism."

Doubts about Egyptian Army action was supported by today's report in Al Assas that the Egyptian Defense Ministry would "allow Army officers NCOs and men to volunteer for service in Palestine."

It was felt that if Egypt intended to send her Army she would not disband her units by permitting individuals to volunteer.

## Arab Strategy

Egyptian Government spokesmen refuse to give any indication of the Arab plan of campaign on the ground that it is a military secret. There are confusing reports as to the parts the regular armies of member states of the Arab League—there are seven—will play in the expected invasion of Palestine.

The general opinion is that the Arab Legion, some units of which are performing security duties in

Jerusalem, April 27. Troops of King Abdullah's British-trained and equipped Arab Legion dug in tonight on both sides of Allenby Bridge, the invasion gateway from the Transjordan Kingdom into Palestine, 18 days before the end of the British mandate. Cairo reports talked of an imminent invasion by regular Arab armies while in Tel Aviv, the Jewish defence force, Haganah, announced it had reached agreement with the terrorist Irgun Zvai Leumi for cooperation in military operations.

The report also discounted the possibility that a concerted move among the Jews in Palestine would be made shortly by other states of the Arab League.

Trustee  
Proposal  
Decision

Lake Success, Apr. 27.

The United Nations Political Committee today agreed to discuss the United States proposal for trusteeship in Palestine. The discussion was taken by a vote of 38 to seven, with seven abstentions.

M. Andrei Gromyko, of Russia, led the opposition to discussion of the American proposal, which was still only in the form of a working paper.

South Africa, Belgium, Brazil, Norway and Spain all argued in favour of consideration of the plan. Britain, Australia, Chile, Guatemala, Bolivia, Venezuela and Uruguay abstained from voting.

The Soviet Union, the Ukraine, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Byelo-Russia and Halt voted against.

Uruguay proposed that, owing to the lack of information on trusteeship, a sub-committee should be appointed for discussions with the Palestine Commission, Britain, the Jewish Agency and the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine. The sub-committee should report back to the Political Committee, he said.

The Political Committee then adjourned until tomorrow.—Reuters.

## KNUDSEN DEAD

Detroit, Apr. 27.

The death of Mr. William S. Knudsen, a former Danish immigrant who organised America's industrial front during the war, was hastened by his tremendous efforts in building up wartime production, his friends said here today.

Mr. Knudsen, who was 60, died today following a cerebral haemorrhage after an illness of 16 months.—Reuters.

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m.v. "IVARAN" June 15th  
m.v. "STOCKHOLM" July 11th

A VESSEL August 15th

## Expected sailings for New York via Panama

m.v. "REINHOLD" about May 26th  
m.v. "IVARAN" June 13th  
m.v. "STOCKHOLM" July 13th

A VESSEL August 17th

For freight &amp; further particulars apply to:

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Peninsular

Oriental

STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY  
ARRIVALS

SHIP	FROM	TO	DATE
"CANTON"	U.K. & Straits	Japan	10th May
"TREVEAN"	U.K. and Continent	via Straits	21st May
"TREVELYAN"	Japan	U.K.	25th May
"ORBITA"	U.K.	Shanghai	27th May
"ORBITA"	Shanghai	U.K.	5th June
"TREVOSE"	U.K. and Continent	via Straits	13th June
"TREVEAN"	Japan	U.K.	16th June

## SAILINGS

SHIP	TO	SAILING



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JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN SERVICE

**"TJIBADAK"** Arrivals from Amoy 29th April. Sailings to Javaports & Macassar, 12th May.

**"TJITJA LENGKA"** from Macassar and Javaports, 11th May. In Port to Javaports and Macassar, 26th May.

**"STRAAT SOENDA"** from Macassar and Javaports, 11th May. In Port to Medano, Macassar & Java Ports, 2nd May.

ASIA—AFRICA—SOUTH AMERICA SERVICE

**"BOISSEVAIN"** Arrivals from Japan & Shanghai 4th May. Sailings to South Africa, South America, via Manila & Straits 11th May.

**"STRAAT MALAKKA"** from South America, South Africa, 17th May. to Shanghai & Japan 18th May.

**"TEGELBERG"** from South Africa South Africa 10th June. to South America 29th June.

Transhipment cargo on through B/L to Dar-Es-Salam, Mombasa, Zanzibar accepted on all sailings.

**SUMATRA—MALAYA—CHINA SERVICE** Arrivals from Amoy & Swatow 5th May. Sailings to Straits & Belawan Dell, 6th May.

**"HEINRICH JESSEN"** from Belawan Dell & Straits 9th May. to Swatow & Amoy 10th May.

from Amoy & Swatow 16th May. to Straits & Belawan Dell 17th May.

Agents: HOLLAND-EAST ASIA LINE

**"ALPHACCA"** Arrivals from Japan & Shanghai 1st May. Sailings to Europe via Straits 2nd May.

**"RIDDERKERK"** from Europe 3rd May. to Europe via Straits 2nd June.

**"MARIEKERK"** from Europe Early June. to Europe via Straits Early July.

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Loads Date Vessel  
Atlantic Coast Mid. May m.v. "DONA NATI"  
via Los Angeles Mid. June m.v. "DONA ANICETA"  
Late June m.v. "TONGHAI"

### ARRIVALS

From Date Vessel  
Atlantic Coast 22nd May m.v. "BALI"  
via Los Angeles 12th June m.v. "DONA AURORA"  
Mid. July m.v. "DONA NATI"

### SAILINGS

For Date Vessel  
Atlantic Coast 17th June m.v. "DONA AURORA"  
via Los Angeles Mid. July m.v. "DONA NATI"  
San Francisco & Los Angeles Mid. June m.v. "HALLAND"

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## FINANCE AND COMMERCE

# A BLUEPRINT FOR JAPAN U.S. Army Plan Based On Draper Report

## Hong Kong Stock Exchange

### Restrictions To Be Removed

Washington, Apr. 27.

A blueprint for the future of Japan has been drawn by the U.S. Army. This was learned exclusively today as efforts speeded to get the plan into final shape for approval and placing into operation.

The plan is based on the findings of Under-Secretary of the Army William Draper and the Industrial Commission which recently visited Japan.

Sources here are unable to say just what is included in the project. However, there is expected to be an overall proposal placing Japan on a self-supporting basis, long desired by the Army and the Japanese people themselves.

The Draper report was based generally on the belief Japan must be given substantial economic assistance after the Japanese prove their own capacity for industrial rehabilitation, authorities said.

These sources said many of Draper's observations coincided with policies expressed publicly by MacArthur. This was particularly true concern-

ing the necessity for removal of economic restrictions that are considered to be hampering industrial revival.

It could not be ascertained whether the Draper mission agreed completely with the views of overseas consultants regarding the amount of industrial potential that should be left in Japan. In any case, these sources said, a final decision on the reparations policy would not be reached for some time. Further missions may be sent to Japan to consider this difficult question, they indicated.

The sources indicated the Draper report supported a plan for permitting Japan a sufficiently large commercial fleet to aid in economic rehabilitation. Figures are not available, but the importance of merchant shipping to the future of the Japanese export business is fully recognised here.

The whole tone of the report, the sources said, coincided with Draper's comments in Tokyo that the Japanese would be assisted but would be required to prove beforehand they were doing the maximum to help themselves.

Officials here said the Japanese had been "too optimistic" during Draper's visit regarding the amount of assistance that could be expected.—Associated Press.

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All claims must reach us before the 28th May, 1948, or they will not be recognised.

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Hong Kong, 20th April, 1948.

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"YUCHOW" Singapore, Macau, Sourabaya, Samarang, Batavia, &amp; Banks 10 a.m. 30th Apr.

"HANYANG" Amoy, Foochow &amp; Tientsin 10 a.m. 1st May

"ANHUI" Amoy, Swatow, Hollow, Saigon, Singapore &amp; Penang 10 a.m. 2nd May

"FUKIEN" Keelung, Shihaura, Yokohama &amp; Kobe, noon 2nd May

"TSINAN" Swatow 4 p.m. 2nd May

"SHENHENG" Shanghai 5 p.m. 3rd May

"SHINKANG" Amoy, Foochow &amp; Bangkok 10 a.m. 4th May

"HUNAN" Bangkok 4 p.m. 10th May

"HUNAN" Amoy, Inchon &amp; Tientsin 10 a.m. 15th May

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ARRIVALS FROM

"SINKIANG" Java &amp; Spore 6 p.m. 29th Apr.

"SHENKING" Shanghai 7 a.m. 1st May

"SZECHUEN" Bangkok, Saigon &amp; Swatow 10 a.m. 6th May

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Arrives 7.00 a.m. 30th April.

Sails 10.00 a.m. 2nd May.

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U.K. via Straits Early May

U.K. via Straits 2nd half May

2nd half May

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TYDEUS

BRECONSHIRE

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Arrivals from

U.K. via U.S.A. 2nd week May

Manila and Shanghai end May

AGAMEMNON Agents: Australian-Oriental Line, Ltd.

Arrivals from

Australia via Manila a.m. 30th April

Sailings to Sydney &amp; Melbourne last week May

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# AIR AND SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## Shipping Arrivals

YESTERDAY

ANDREW JACKSON (Wallen) Amer. 1,610' tons, ex-Manila, Cap. Ord.

BRECONSHIRE (L.M.S.) 4,020

tons, ex-Singapore (Capt. Neville) K. Whl.

CHRISTINE MAERSK (Jensen) 8,024

tons, ex-New York, K. Whl.

HAIYANG (Douglas) British, ex-Swato

n, Doug. Whl.

KUTHANG (Jardine) British, ex-Yoko

ka, K. Whl. Koshin, Amer. 1,774

BANDVIKEN (Jensen) 2,100 tons

ex-Swato, Capt. K. D. Olane, Y.

TSHINAN (B. &amp; S.) British, 2,100 tons

ex-Swato, Capt. O. Fox, Capt. Whl.

YUCHOW (A. &amp; S.) British, ex-Shang

hai, K. Whl.

TODAY

ANDREW JACKSON (Wallen) Amer.

BRECONSHIRE (L.M.S.) 4,020

tons, ex-Singapore (Capt. Neville) K. Whl.

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YUCHOW (A. &amp; S.) British, ex-Shang

hai, K. Whl.

TOMORROW

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HAIYANG (Douglas) British, ex-Swato

n, Doug. Whl.

KUTHANG (Jardine) British, ex-Yoko

ka, K. Whl. Koshin, Amer. 1,774

BANDVIKEN (Jensen) 2,100 tons

ex-Swato, Capt. K. D. Olane, Y.

TSHINAN (B. &amp; S.) British, 2,100 tons

ex-Swato, Capt. O. Fox, Capt. Whl.

YUCHOW (A. &amp; S.) British, ex-Shang

hai, K. Whl.

TOMORROW

ANDREW JACKSON (Wallen) Amer.

BRECONSHIRE (L.M.S.) 4,020

tons, ex-Singapore (Capt. Neville) K. Whl.

CHRISTINE MAERSK (Jensen) 8,024

tons, ex-New York, K. Whl.

HAIYANG (Douglas) British, ex-Swato

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TODAY

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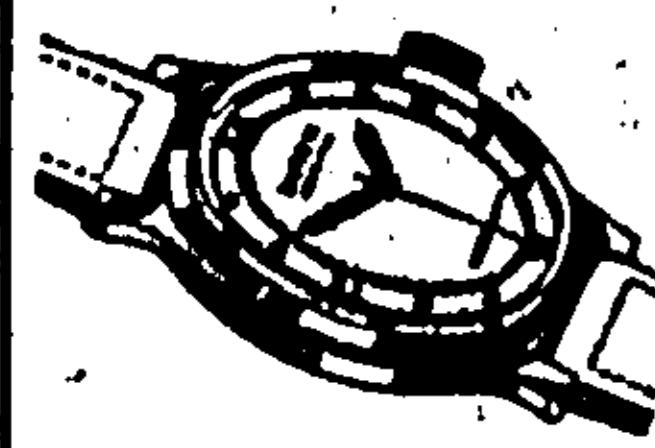
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BUREN

THE PERFECT  
SWISS WATCH

# CHINA MAIL

HONG KONG, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1948.

## REDUCTION IN CARGO THEFTS MAINTAINED

### Seafarers' Festival

Members of the Chinese community, particularly sailors and those whose livelihood is connected with the sea, will observe the birthday of the Goddess of Heaven (Tin Hau) on Saturday, May 1.

The patron saint of all Chinese seamen, and shrines, dedicated to this deity, are situated at different points along the China Coast.

It is commonly believed by Chinese seamen that Tin Hau possesses the power to calm stormy seas. It is not uncommon to see Chinese seamen on board a vessel leaving port bearing paper offerings at the stern to Tin Hau.

On Tin Hau's birthday, many Chinese in Hong Kong will make a pilgrimage to Tseki Wan outside Lyemun Pass, where a large Goddess of Heaven Temple is situated. The Hong Kong and Yaumati Ferry Co., Ltd., will run special ferries, while numbers of junks, gaily bedecked, will also make the trip.

Record crowds are expected at the Goddess of Heaven Temple at Tai Hang, just above King's Slipway.

Poss paper shops are displaying a large assortment of paper articles which will be burnt at the Temple when offerings of roast pig and other foodstuffs will be made.

### Love Letter Writer

To meet the needs of any bashful and illiterate young Chinese maiden who lacks the eloquence with which to turn the head and heart of the one she loves, a member of the fair sex has established herself in business as a writer of love letters.

On payment of a mere 20 cents, the woman undertakes to write a billet doux which is guaranteed to send the Prince Charming to whom it is addressed into raptures of delight and irrevocably to win his heart for the fair maiden by whom it is sent.

The pitch where the enterprising young letter writer has set herself up in business is located in Wanchai Road in the vicinity of the Cathay Theatre.

### Canton Curfew

Curfew will be enforced in Canton city without any warning from next month, according to messages from the Kwangtung capital yesterday.

The measure has been adopted to cope with emergencies arising from political or other disturbances.

Government and private organisations in the city have been requested to apply for curfew passes for their vehicles and staff before the end of the month.

## Symington's Plea For US Air Force

Washington, Apr. 28.

The Air Secretary, W. Stuart Symington, told Congress today that Russia will have the atomic bomb before the United States has an adequate Air Force unless work on the Air Force is begun "this year."

Arguing for the House-approved 70-group air force, Symington told the Senate Appropriations Committee, "We should think in terms of our only possible enemy, and the only thing that Russians are afraid of is a great Air Force. They are building it as fast as they can and that is the only way they can get at us and the only way we can get at them today."

He told the Committee, "If you don't start building this year you will never have a modern Air Force by the time the Russians get 'the bomb'."

Symington and other Air Force leaders fought another round in the battle for a 70-group Air Force despite objections of the Defence Secretary, James Forrestal.

Both Symington and General Carl A. Spaatz, retiring Air Chief of Staff, told the sub-committee that they are in favour of the 60-group air force plan plugged by Forrestal on Monday. But they made it crystal clear under committee questioning that they feel a larger 70-group air strength is vital to the nation's security.

Symington denied that the money voted to expand the Air Force from the present 60

reduction in cargo thefts had been maintained, and the reputation of Hong Kong in that respect was higher than that of any other port in the Far East, declared Mr. D. F. Landale, Chairman, at the annual meeting of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. yesterday.

Directors present were: D. F. Landale (Chairman), Messrs. H. D. Benham, L. Kadoorie, M. K. Lo, N. O. C. Marsh, A. C. Offenberg, A. H. Penn, R. K. Valentine, T. B. Wilson (Directors) and C. E. Terry Secretary.

The chairman said: "During the year, we handled a total of 634 vessels, which discharged 646,000 tons of cargo.

Although the total is slightly less than for 1946, the number of vessels shows an increase of just over 50%, which is a satisfactory indication of post-war re-establishment of merchant shipping.

"We are still able to turn a ship round in Hong Kong quicker than in most other ports."

### Repairs Completed

"The reduction in cargo thefts and pilferage has been maintained, and the reputation of Hong Kong in this respect today is higher than any other Far Eastern Port and compares favourably with any port in the world."

"Repairs to No. 3 wharf were completed last October, and this wharf is again in first class condition and full operation.

"Demolition of No. 4 wharf has been completed, and the bulk of the materials for its reconstruction have been obtained; work on the actual construction is expected to commence shortly.

"Maintenance repairs have been carried out on all other wharves to keep them in safe and proper condition until the completion of No. 4 wharf permits their major reconstruction to be undertaken.

"We are still without information as to the terms and conditions under which our new pier leases will be issued. The question of the terms of new leases is being pursued with Government.

"Delays have occurred in delivery of mechanical equipment which has been on order for some time, but some of it is now available and we hope to complete the installation of the two additional electric cranes on our wharf early this year.

"In profit and loss account is made for a transfer of \$231,450 to general contingencies account. The expenditure of \$131,450 shown in the balance sheet under this account was incurred in rehabilitation of quarters for staff. Provision is also made for taxation and for a dividend of \$12.00 per share, less tax.

"The general rehabilitation of your properties has progressed very satisfactorily, and the scars of war are progressively disappearing. The reconstruction programme is well in hand."

"Reconstruction of No. 25-A transit shed was completed at the end of the year, and this valuable asset was immediately put into operation, releasing 7,000 tons of space in our storage godowns for its rightful use. Another prefabricated godown of 6,000 tons

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